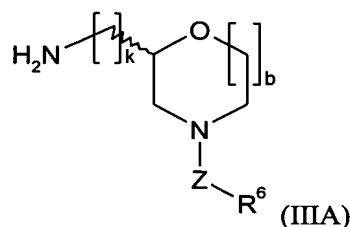


**AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IIIA)



or a salt thereof;

wherein;

Z ~~represents~~ is a bond, CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, CR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>7</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>CR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>7</sup>, CHR<sup>7</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>O, CHR<sup>7</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>S, CHR<sup>7</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OCO, CHR<sup>7</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>CO, COCHR<sup>7</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub> or SO<sub>2</sub>CHR<sup>7</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>;

R<sup>6</sup> ~~represents~~ is C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aryl-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl-, -CN or a group of formula -Y<sup>2</sup>-J<sup>3</sup>;

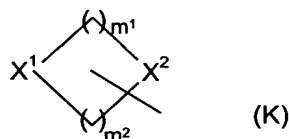
R<sup>7</sup> ~~represents~~ is hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, CONR<sup>8</sup>R<sup>9</sup> or COOC<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl;

a and b ~~represents~~ is 1 or 2, such that a+b represents 2 or 3;

n ~~represents~~ is an integer from 0 to 4;

M ~~represents~~ is a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl or C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkenyl group fused to a monocyclic aryl or monocyclic heteroaryl group;

J<sup>3</sup> ~~represents~~ is a moiety of formula (K):



wherein X<sup>1</sup> ~~represents~~ is oxygen, NR<sup>11</sup> or sulphur, X<sup>2</sup> ~~represents~~ is CH<sub>2</sub>, oxygen, NR<sup>12</sup> or sulphur, m<sup>1</sup> ~~represents~~ is an integer from 1 to 3 and m<sup>2</sup> ~~represents~~ is an integer from 1 to 3, provided that m<sup>1</sup>+m<sup>2</sup> is in the range from 3 to 5, also provided that when both X<sup>1</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> ~~represent~~ are oxygen, NR<sup>11</sup>, NR<sup>12</sup> or sulphur, m<sup>1</sup> and m<sup>2</sup> must both not equal less than 2, wherein K is optionally substituted by one or more (eg. 1 or 2) -Y<sup>3</sup>-aryl, -Y<sup>3</sup>-heteroaryl, -Y<sup>3</sup>-CO-aryl, -COC<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl, -Y<sup>3</sup>-CO-heteroaryl, -C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, -Y<sup>3</sup>-COOC<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, -Y<sup>3</sup>-COC<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, -Y<sup>3</sup>-W, -Y<sup>3</sup>-CO-W, -Y<sup>3</sup>-NR<sup>15</sup>R<sup>16</sup>, -Y<sup>3</sup>-CONR<sup>15</sup>R<sup>16</sup>, hydroxy, oxo, -Y<sup>3</sup>-SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>15</sup>R<sup>16</sup>, -Y<sup>3</sup>-SO<sub>2</sub>C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, -Y<sup>3</sup>-SO<sub>2</sub>aryl, -Y<sup>3</sup>-SO<sub>2</sub>heteroaryl, -Y<sup>3</sup>-NR<sup>13</sup>C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, -Y<sup>3</sup>-NR<sup>13</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, -Y<sup>3</sup>-NR<sup>13</sup>CONR<sup>15</sup>R<sup>16</sup>, -Y<sup>3</sup>-NR<sup>13</sup>COOR<sup>14</sup> or -Y<sup>3</sup>-OCONR<sup>15</sup>R<sup>16</sup> groups, and is optionally fused to a monocyclic aryl or heteroaryl ring;

$R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  independently ~~represent~~represent hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl;  
 $R^{15}$  and  $R^{16}$  independently ~~represent~~represent hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl or  $R^{15}$  and  $R^{16}$  together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached may form a morpholine, piperidine or pyrrolidine ring;

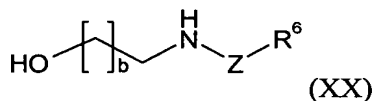
$R^{17}$  and  $R^{18}$  independently ~~represent~~represent hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl;

W ~~represents~~represents a saturated or unsaturated, non-aromatic 5-7 membered ring containing between 1 and 3 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur, optionally substituted with one or more  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, halogen or hydroxy groups;

$Y^1, Y^2$  and  $Y^3$  independently ~~represent~~represent a bond or a group of formula -  $(CH_2)_p CR^c R^d (CH_2)_q$ - wherein  $R^c$  and  $R^d$  independently ~~represent~~represent hydrogen or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl or  $R^c$  and  $R^d$  may together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl group, and p and q independently ~~represent~~represent an integer from 0 to 5 wherein  $p + q$  is an integer from 0 to 5; and;

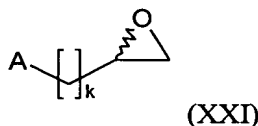
k is 1 or 2;

which process comprises the reaction of a compound of formula (XX)



wherein;

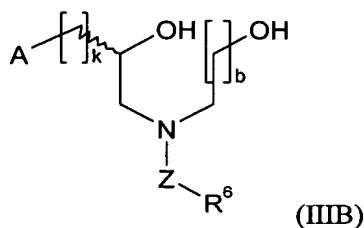
b, Z, and  $R^6$  are as defined for formula (IIIA);  
with an enantiomer of a compound of formula (XXI)



wherein;

A is a protected amino group and k is 1 or 2;  
followed by deprotection of the amino group to give a compound of formula (IIIA).

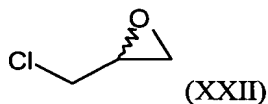
2. (original) A process according to claim 1 wherein an intermediate compound of formula of formula (IIIB);



wherein;

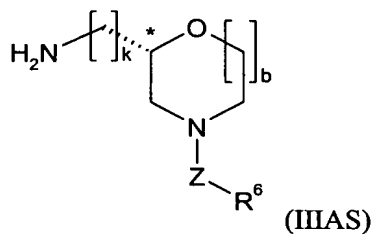
k, Z, R<sup>6</sup>, and b are as hereinbefore defined for formula (IIIA) in claim 1, and A is a protected amino group;  
is isolated.

3. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IIIB) as defined in claim 2, which process comprises the reaction of a compound of formula (XXII)



with a compound of formula (XX) as defined in claim 1.

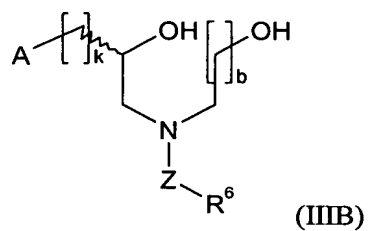
4. (original) A process for the separation of a compound of formula (IIIAS);



wherein;

k, b, Z, and R<sup>6</sup> are as defined for formula (IIIA) in claim 1;  
from its antipode, which process comprises reaction of the mixture of a compound of formula (IIIAS) and its antipode with an enzyme and a suitable enzyme donor.

5. (original) A compound of formula (IIIB)



wherein;

k, Z, R<sup>6</sup>, and B are as defined for formula (IIIA) in claim 1 and A is a protected amino group;  
or a salt thereof.